

SENATE BILL 116

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2lr1070

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Ellis**

Requested: October 29, 2021

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Inclusive and Diverse English Language Arts – Development of**
3 **Content Standards and Implementation**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education to develop content standards
5 for inclusive and diverse English language arts to be included in certain State
6 standards for English language arts; requiring each county board of education to
7 develop and implement certain curriculum guides for inclusive and diverse English
8 language arts; requiring each public school to include inclusive and diverse English
9 language arts in the English language arts curriculum beginning in a certain school
10 year; and generally relating to the development and implementation of inclusive and
11 diverse English language arts curriculum in public schools.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Education

14 Section 7–205.5

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Education**

20 **7–205.5.**

21 **(A) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2022, THE STATE BOARD SHALL**
22 **DEVELOP CONTENT STANDARDS FOR INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**
23 **ARTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE STATE STANDARDS AND FRAMEWORKS IN ENGLISH**
24 **LANGUAGE ARTS.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) THE CONTENT STANDARDS FOR INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE**
2 **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS SHALL:**

3 **(I) HIGHLIGHT AND PROMOTE DIVERSITY, INCLUDING**
4 **ECONOMIC DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, TOLERANCE, AND BELONGING;**

5 **(II) EXAMINE THE IMPACT THAT UNCONSCIOUS BIAS AND**
6 **ECONOMIC DISPARITIES HAVE AT BOTH AN INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETAL LEVEL; AND**

7 **(III) ENCOURAGE SAFE, WELCOMING, AND INCLUSIVE**
8 **ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS REGARDLESS OF RACE, ETHNICITY, SEXUAL**
9 **ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL DISABILITY, AND**
10 **RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.**

11 **(B) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT**
12 **AGE-APPROPRIATE CURRICULUM GUIDES FOR INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE ENGLISH**
13 **LANGUAGE ARTS SUBJECT TO THE CONTENT STANDARDS ESTABLISHED UNDER**
14 **SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.**

15 **(C) BEGINNING IN THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL IN**
16 **THE STATE SHALL INCLUDE INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN**
17 **THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM.**

18 **(D) THE STATE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE**
19 **REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.**

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before December 15,
21 2022, the State Department of Education shall report to the General Assembly, in
22 accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on the content standards by
23 grade level for inclusive and diverse English language arts that will be included in the State
24 Standards and Frameworks in English Language Arts.

25 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
26 1, 2022.